THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the first of *May*, 1729.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by Mr. JAMES DAVIDSON and ROBERT FLEMING, Printers to the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, and sold at the said Mr. *Davidson*'s Shop, 1729.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

The GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Church of SCOTLAND:

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh* upon *Thurſday* the 1ſt and ending the 16th Days of *May* 1729.

I.

The KING's Commiſſion to David *Earl of* Buchan *produced, and ordered to be recorded.*

At Edinburgh, 1ſt May, 1729. Seſſ. 1.

THE General Aſſembly of the Miniſters and Ruling Elders of this National Church being conveened and conſtituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable *David* Earl of *Buchan*, His Majeſty's Commiſſion, ſealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union betwixt the Two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and uſed in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting him His Majeſty's High Commiſſioner and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly: Which Commiſſion being publickly read, with all due Honour and Reſpect, it was ordered to be recorded in the Books of Aſſembly. The Tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS *Dei Gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor; Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in primum diem Maii, proxime futuri, convenire ordinatus fuit: Nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut idem Generalis Ecclesiæ Conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto Conventui personaliter interesse nequimus. Et per multa testimonia nobis abunde satisfactum sit de sufficientia & fidelitate fidelissimi & dilectissimi nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Buchan, quod ad summum munus postea mentionatum, rite exercendum & obeundum, usquequaque sit idoneus & instructus; Noveritis igitur nos nominasse, constituisse & ordinasse, sicuti nos, tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus & ordinamus dictum Davidem Comitem de Buchan, supremum nostrum Commissionarium ad effectum subscriptum, dando & concedendo illi plenissimam potestatem, commissionem & warrantum, sacram nostram personam & authoritatem regalem representandi; nec non, præsentiam nostram supplendi, locumque nostrum in dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro in hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium & munus Commissionarii pro Generali Ecclesiæ Conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat; & ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia & singula a dicto Davide Comite de Buchan, in hac nostra Commissione prosequenda, legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, & habituri sumus. Omnibus & singulis insuper antedictæ Ecclesiæ & Conventus pastoribus & presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque infra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Buchan, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum & modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant, & dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus & imperamus. Atque hanc nostram Commissionem a dicto primo die mensis Maii proxime incipere, ac deinceps hac subsequenti sessione dicti Generalis Conventus in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur & exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiendum, &, in Scotia, vice & loco magni sigilli ejusdem utendum, ordinatum, presentibus, appendi mandavimus, apud aulam nostram de St. James's decimo sexto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo vigesimo nono, regnique nostri anno secundo.*

Per signaturam signo manus S. D. N. regis suprascriptam.

In dorso.

Seal'd at *Edinburgh* the Twenty Ninth of *April*, One thousand seven hundred and twenty nine.

Ja. Robertson.

Written to the Seal, and Registred the Twenty eight Day of *April* 1729.

J. Buchanan, Deputy.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioner, May 1st, 1729. Sess. 1.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well beloved, We greet you well. The Zeal for the Honour and Glory of God, and the Advancement of true Religion and Piety, the Loyalty and Affection for Our Person and Government, and the Love of your Country, which have so eminently appeared in your former Assemblies, have induced us with great Willingness to countenance your present Meeting by Our Approbation and Royal Authority, and to renew to you upon this Occasion, the Assurances of Our constant Resolution to support and maintain the Church of *Scotland* established by Law, in the full Enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges.

As We make no Doubt but you come together with the same good Dispositions and Intentions, so you may always depend upon Our Protection and Assistance in whatever may promote the true Interest of the Church of which you are Members, and tend to the preventing of the Growth of Popery, and to the Discouraging and suppressing of Prophaneness and Immorality; and we are fully perswaded that you are so sensible of the great Importance of a good Agreement and Unanimity among your selves, to the Success of your Councils and Resolutions, that your Debates will be conducted with that Moderation and Brotherly Love and Charity, which are becoming so Venerable an Assembly, and which will further entitle you to Our Royal Favour.

WE have made Choice of our Right Trusty and entirely beloved Cousin, *David* Earl of *Buchan*, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, whose known Zeal for Our Service, and firm Adherence to the Principles of

the Church of *Scotland*, and Concern for its Proſperity will, we doubt not, make him very acceptable to you; and as we entirely rely upon his Capacity, Diligence and Application in the Diſcharge of ſo great a Truſt, we have the ſame Dependence, that you will on your Part, by your Unanimity and Diſpatch of the Buſineſs proper for your Conſideration, contribute to the attaining thoſe good Ends for which you are conveen'd. And ſo we bid you heartily Farewell. Given at our Court at *St. James's*, the 16th Day of *April* 1729, in the 2d Year of our Reign.

By His Majeſty's Command,

HOLLIS NEWCASTLE.

Directed thus,

To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Miniſters and Elders of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, May 3d, 1729. Seſſ. 3.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

YOUR Majeſty's honouring us, with Your moſt Gracious Letter, and being pleaſed to make favourable Mention of that Zeal for the Honour and Glory of God, and the Advancement of true Religion and Piety, that Loyalty and Affection to Your Royal Perſon and Government, and that Love of our Country, which have appeared in former General Aſſemblies of this Church, is to us the greateſt Encouragement to endeavour to imitate them, and gives us Reaſon to bleſs God, that we have a Sovereign upon the Throne, who eſteems ſuch Qualities worthy of His particular Approbation, and with whom the Diſcharge of our Duty is the Way to recommend us to His Royal Favour.

THAT

THAT Your Majesty is so graciously pleased to renew unto us, upon this Occasion, the Assurances of Your constant Resolution to support and maintain the Church of *Scotland* established by Law, in the full Enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges, tho' it cannot indeed add any thing to that full Security of Mind, with which we entirely rely'd upon those which Your Majesty hath been pleased to give us before, yet it does sensibly stir up in our Hearts the warmest Sentiments of Duty and Gratitude, which we are capable to entertain.

THE Encouragement we have from Your Majesty always to depend upon Your Royal Protection and Assistance, in whatever may promote the true Interest of this Church, and tend to prevent the Growth of Popery, and to the discouraging of Vice and Immorality, must needs animate our Endeavours to pursue these great and good Ends.

YOUR Majesty, with the most endearing Goodness, puts us in Remembrance of how great Importance, a good Agreement and Unanimity among ourselves, is to the Success of our Councils and Resolutions; and we shall be much to blame, if we do not behave ourselves with that Moderation and Brotherly Love and Charity which become us, and may further entitle us to Your Royal Favour.

THE Earl of *Buchan*'s Zeal for Your Majesty's Service, and firm Adherence to the Principles of this Church, and Concern for its Prosperity, are justly acknowledged by all to whom his Character is known; and these, together with the dear Remembrance we have of his noble Progenitors, cannot but render Your Majesty's Choice of him, to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable to us; and we shall think ourselves very happy, if God shall enable us by our Unanimity and Dispatch of the Business proper for our Consideration, to contribute on our Part, according to Your Majesty's Expectation, to the attaining these good Ends for which we are conveened.

WITH much Thankfulness did we receive from the Hand of Your Majesty's Commissioner, Your Royal Warrant for continuing the charitable and bountiful Donation, bestowed for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, and of true Religion, in the Highlands and Islands of this Country, the Effects whereof in Time past have been such, as we hope, have already procured for Your Royal Person and Family the Blessings and Prayers of many Souls that have profited by it.

AND that God may plentifully reward Your Majesty for all that You do for the advancing of His Glory, and of the Interest of Religion, and for all the Encouragement which You are pleased to give to this Church; that He may multiply

tiply His beſt Bleſſings upon Your Majeſty's Perſon, and grant You a long and glorious Reign over a happy and Loyal People; that He may honour Your Majeſty to be the Inſtrument of preſerving the Proteſtant Religion, the Peace of *Europe*, and the juſt Rights and Privileges of all Your Subjects; that he may richly bleſs Your Royal Conſort the Queen; and now that his Royal Highneſs the Prince of *Wales*, whoſe happy Arrival in *Britain*, we eſteem a great Bleſſing to ourſelves, and to all our Fellow Subjects, is, together with the reſt of Your Royal Offspring, adorning Your Majeſty's Court, that God may enrich their Souls with all theſe Graces and Qualifications, which befit their high Character, that He may be their Father and the Guide of their Youth; and that all the Bleſſings of God's everlaſting Covenant may be the Portion of Your Majeſty, and of all Your Royal Family, are and ſhall be the Prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty

Your Majeſty's moſt Faithful, moſt Obedient, and moſt Loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in the National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment by

JA. ALSTON, Moderator.

IV.

ACT renewing the Recommendation of the laſt General Aſſembly, in Favour of the Society in Scotland *for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge.*

Edinburgh, May 3, 1729, ante Merid. Seſſ. 3.

THERE was brought into the General Aſſembly, from their Committee for Bills, the Petition and Repreſentation of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, ſhewing, That the foreſaid Society having formerly from time to time given

given an Account to the General Assembly of the State of their Affairs, and having since the last General Assembly caused print the present State thereof, and sent Copies to all Parishes, Presbyteries and Synods in *Scotland*, do now present a Copy of the same to this Assembly, whereby it appears that the Number of their Schools is 78, and the Number of Scholars are near 3000; and the Sociey are about erecting more Schools.

As to the School erected upon the Fund left by the deceast *John Rayning* Merchant in *Norwich*, it is in a flourishing Condition, having therein, at the last Visitation, 101 Scholars; and the Society are using their Endeavours for recovering what remains unpaid of that Fund.

Many Places are yet needing and petitioning for Schools, but the Society's Funds do not allow thereof, and divers of the Masters do complain of the Smalness of their Salaries, and the Society are convinced that they need Augmentations; but the Expences of furnishing Books, Postage, and other Incidents are so great, that the Society are much straitned, how to answer the Demands on them; and therefore did, for increasing their Funds, grant a Commission this Year, to divers Noblemen, Persons of Honour, Ministers and other worthy and charitable Persons in *England*, to be correspondent Members, in order to obtain Donations, and for negotiating the Society's Affairs there; which Commission is printed in the foresaid State.

The Society considering that the coming of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour is, what all sincere Believers wish and pray for, and that it has pleased God to put it in the Hearts of many in his Majesty's Dominions, to contribute their Endeavours, and to bestow of their Worldly Substance, for advancing the Knowledge of Christ, in Places needing the Means thereof, both at Home and Abroad; and not only does our gracious Sovereign countenance it, but also out of his Royal Bounty gives yearly a considerable Sum for that End; And Protestant Powers abroad are concerning themselves in this laudable Design, by sending Missionaries to Heathen Nations, and with good Success.

This being a Matter of the greatest Moment, the Promoters thereof do need Direction and Encouragement from the Word of God, and also the Prayers and Concurrence of the Lord's People.

The Society by their Committee did therfore apply to the Reverend Ministers of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, to appoint a Sermon on the foresaid Subject, in the High Church of *Edinburgh*, the first *Thursday* of *January* yearly, being the Day of the Anniversary Meeting of the foresaid Society; and that these Sermons be for Confirmation of

People in the Truth of the Holy Chriſtian Religion, and the Excellency thereof, and in the Faith of the great Promiſes made for ſpreading the Knowledge of Chriſt: And the Miniſters of the foreſaid Presbytery did very cordially agree thereunto, and that when the Society ſhall invite any of their Number, the Presbytery ſhould lay their Appointment on him to preach that Sermon, and left it to the Society to apply to the Venerable Aſſembly to have their Allowance to invite any Miniſter of this National Church, who may conveniently be had, to preach that Sermon annually.

It has been a great Satisfaction and Encouragement to this Society, that as their Erection was at the earneſt Deſire of the General Aſſembly, ſo they have ſtill had the Concurrence and Approbation of the eſtabliſhed Church, and by the pious Zeal and great Care of the Miniſters thereof, conſiderable Sums have been brought in to the Society, ſo that their preſent Fund is upwards of Nine thouſand Pounds *Sterling*, beſides what of Mr. *Raining*'s Mortification is already paid in, and divers other Legacies by Charitable Perſons liferented and yet reſting. But at the ſame time the Society cannot but repreſent, that there are many Miniſters and Pariſhes in *Scotland*, who never to this Day have given any Thing to the Society's Funds. The Society are unwilling to be more particular in this Matter, being hopeful theſe concerned will lay it to Heart, and with their firſt Conveniency contribute, but are reſolved to prepare, in order to be laid before the next General Aſſembly, a full Liſt of Pariſhes in every Synod and Presbytery in *Scotland* deficient in contributing. And therefore humbly craving to the Effect aftermentioned.

The General Aſſembly having heard and conſidered the foreſaid Repreſentation and Petition, they did, and hereby do renew their former Recommendations to Deficients, in contributing to the Society's Funds, and do earneſtly intreat them yet to contribute cheerfully to ſo excellent and Chriſtian an Undertaking, and to ſend in their Donations, in the Terms of the Eight Act of the laſt General Aſſembly, to Mr. *Joſeph Cave* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, the Society's Treaſurer. And the Aſſembly recommends to any Miniſter of this Church, whom the Society ſhall invite, yearly, to preach a Sermon at their Anniverſary Meetings, ſuitable to the Occaſion; and likewiſe recommends to the ſeveral Presbyteries, where the Society's Schools are, or may be ſettled, to viſit them frequently, and give them all Encouragement, and to report to the ſaid Society the State of their Charity Schools, according to the Rules laid down by them in the foreſaid printed State of the Society.

V.

Act dividing the Presbytery of Lorn, *and erecting a new Presbytery in* Mull.

Edinburgh, May 12*th*, 1729, post merid. Sess. 14.

THE General Assembly having had laid before them a Petition of the Presbytery of *Lorn*, concurred with by the Synod of *Argyle*, setting forth the great Extent of the Bounds of that Presbytery, and the Distance at which sundry of the Parishes in it do ly from the Presbytery Seat, and that travelling in that Country both by Sea and Land is very difficult, which often stops the Members of Presbytery from Meeting, and other Persons concern'd from attending their Diets, and occasions much Expences and Trouble; and for a Remedy of this, in some Measure, proposing the Erection of another Presbytery therein: As the said Petition and Act of the Synod, both read in Assembly, more fully bear. And the General Assembly having considered the Premisses, and judging the present Situation of the said Presbytery very inconvenient, and a great Obstruction to the Exercise of Discipline, as well as an Hinderance to the Ministers in their Work, they being thereby frequently detained long from their Parishes; Do therefore hereby disjoin the said Presbytery, and Parishes after-named, and erect the same into two Presbyteries, in Manner following, *viz.* the whole Parishes within the Isles of *Mull*, *Tiree* and *Coll*, and the Country of *Ardnamurchan*, *Sunnard*, and *Morven*, consisting at present of Six Ministerial Charges, into one Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of *Mull*; and ordains that their ordinary Place of Meeting be at *Arros* in *Mull*: And the Parishes of *Lismore* and *Appin*, *Ardchattan* and *Muckcairn*, *Kilmoir* and *Kilbride*, *Kilbranden* and *Kilchattan*, *Kilninver* and *Kilmelfort*, Part of the old Presbytery of *Lorn*, with the Parishes of *Kilchrennan* and *Dallavich*, and *Innishall* and *Clachandysart*, now in the Bounds of the Presbytery of *Inverary*, into another Presbytery, consisting at present of Seven Ministerial Charges, to be continued under the Name of the Presbytery of *Lorn*; and appoints that their Place of Meeting be for ordinary at *Kilmoir*. And the Assembly

ordains the foresaid two Presbyteries to have their first Meetings *respective* at the Places above-mentioned, upon the first *Wednesday* of *July* next; and they declare both the said Presbyteries to be still a Part of the Synod of *Argyle*, as formerly, and to have the same Powers and Privileges which any other Presbytery have, by the Word of God, and Constitutions of this Church. And *lastly*, The General Assembly ordains, that the Records and Papers, formerly belonging to the old Presbytery of *Lorn*, remain with the new Presbytery of that Name, but that they be patent to the Presbytery of *Mull*, and that they have all necessary Extracts therefrom, as they shall require the same.

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VI.

Act concerning Mr. John Simson *Professor of Divinity in the College of* Glasgow.

Edinburgh, May 13, 1729, ante merid. Sess. 15.

THE General Assembly considering, how necessary it is, that the Process, which hath so long depended concerning Mr. *John Simson* Professor of Divinity in the College of *Glasgow*, should be brought to an Issue, such as may tend to the Preservation of the *Purity of the Doctrine*, and of the Peace of this Church: And being now to give their Determination in it, do observe, with great Pleasure and Thankfulness, that God hath so happily directed all the Judicatories of this Church, which have had this Process under their Consideration, that there hath not appeared the least Difference of Sentiment; but, on the contrary, there hath been the most perfect and unanimous Agreement among them, as to the Doctine of the Glorious *Trinity*, and the proper Supreme Deity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, according as the same is revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and contained in our *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*.

And they having maturely and seriously considered all that hath been found relevant and proven against the said Mr. *John Simson*, by the two last preceeding Assemblies, co-

together with all that hath been offered by him, for alleviating the Censure that ought to be inflicted for the same: And having also considered the Declarations given in by him to the two former General Assemblies, and to this, wherein he owns the Orthodox Doctrine concerning these great and fundamental Articles of our Holy Religion, and disclaims and renounces all these Errors and erroneous or suspicious Ways of speaking, which he had been charged with, and declares himself exceedingly sorry for the Offence he had given by such Ways of expressing himself. And tho' the said Mr. *John Simson* hath constantly disowned that ever he held, or deliberately taught the gross Errors whereof he was accused; yet many Members of this General Assembly declared it to be their Opinion, that the uttering such Things, and making Use of such Expressions as have been found against Mr. *Simson*, was such a Fault in a Minister, especially in one of his Station, who had the Care of the Education of Youth designed for the holy Ministry, as deserved no less than the Censure of Deposition; and other Members, in Respect of the Alleviations found in the Course of the Process, and of the Declarations made by Mr. *Simson*, having on the other Hand given it as their Opinion, that he ought to be treated with more Tenderness: And the General Assembly being desirous to avoid going to Extremities on either Side, but to give such a Decision in the Matter, as may give just and reasonable Satisfaction on all Hands, and preserve Peace, both among the Members of this Assembly, and among all the other Ministers and Members of the Church; *Find*, That the foresaid Mr. *John Simson*, by what hath been found relevant and proven against him in this Process, and also by his neglecting so many Opportunities, as he had during the Course thereof, of giving Satisfaction to the Judicatories of this Church, when called to do so, as to the Soundness of his Faith concerning these important Articles, about which he was called in Question, had given such Offence, as renders it not fit or safe, that he should further teach as a Professor of Divinity in this Church. Therefore the General Assembly did and hereby do, ratify and confirm the Sentence of the last Assembly, suspending the said Mr. *John Simson* from preaching and teaching, and all Exercise of any Ecclesiastical Power or Function, untill another General Assembly shall think fit to take off this Sentence; and also give it as their Judgment, that it is not fit nor safe that he be further employ'd in teaching Divinity, and instructing of Youth designed for the holy Ministry in this Church.

AND that the Judicatories of this Church may have no more Trouble about this Proceſs, the General Aſſembly have thought fit, that for Peace's Sake, this whole Affair concerning Mr. *Simſon* ſhould reſt here.

VII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, *and for Management of the King's Bounty for that End.*

Edinburgh, May 13th, 1729, poſt merid. Seſſ. 16.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their Conſideration the great Extent of many Pariſhes in the *Highlands* and *Iſlands* of *Scotland*, and that by Reaſon thereof, Ignorance, Popery, Superſtition and Vice do abound in many Places therein, and that it has pleaſed our Gracious Sovereign the King out of his Royal Bounty, to beſtow yearly the Sum of One thouſand Pounds *Sterling*, to encourage itinerant Preachers and Catechiſts to go to the foreſaid *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, for aſſiſting the Miniſters eſtabliſhed there, in giving the People in theſe Parts ſuch Inſtruction as is neceſſary to enlighten, and arm them againſt the Practices of many Popiſh Prieſts, that reſort thither, to pervert and ſeduce them from the Profeſſion and Principles of the Reformed Religion: And the General Aſſembly being glad of ſuch an Opportunity of advancing the Intereſt of Religion, and Good of their Country, under ſuch favourable Circumſtances, with ſo great Encouragement and Aſſiſtance, and earneſtly deſirous to improve the ſame, and to promote his Majeſty's pious Deſign; and ſeeing they cannot do what is neceſſary in that Matter, during the ſhort Time of their continuing together, and that it is proper there be a ſtanding Committee of fit Perſons, ſuch as may beſt attend, and be moſt uſeful, appointed for this Matter, to meet frequently in the Intervals of the General Aſſemblies: The General Aſſembly do by theſe Preſents nominate, commiſſionate and appoint the Rev. Mr. *James Al-*

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ston Minister of the Gospel at Dirletoun their Moderator; Mrs. *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, *William Miller* at Edinburgh, *William Gusthart* there, *Thomas Linnen* at Lesmahago, *David Anderson* Professor of Divinity in the King's College of Aberdeen, His Majesty's Chaplains, *James Hart* at Edinburgh, His Majesty's Almoner, *William Wishart* Principal of the College of Edinburgh, *John Schaw* at South-Leith, *James Craig* at Edinburgh, *James Smith* at Cramond, *James Bannatyne* at Edinburgh, *George Lindsay* at North-Leith, *George Chalmers* Principal of the King's-College at Aberdeen, *James Gordon* at Alford, *John Gilchrist* at Keith, *Daniel M'Kenzie* at Inverness, *William Stewart* at Kiltearn, *George Gordon* at Cromarty, *Kenneth Bethune* at Kilmuir in Trotternish, *Murdo Morison* at Barvas, *Robert Kirk* at Dornoch, *James Ferm* at Wick, *William Mair* at Holm, *John Flint* at Edinburgh, *John M'Claran* there, *Robert Sandilands* there, *James Grierson* there, *Niel M'Vicar* at West-kirk, *James Walker* at Canongate, *John Walker* there, *John Mathison* at Edinburgh, *Matthew Wood* there, *James Nisbet* there, *Matthew Crawford* Professor of Ecclesiastick History in the College of Edinburgh, *William Broun* at Edinburgh, *Robert Kinloch* there, *John Hepburn* there, *James Stevenson* at South-Leith, *George Wishart* at West-kirk, *George Fordice* at Corstorphine, *John Brand* at Borrowstounness, *James Nasmith* at Dalmeny, *William Mac-George* at Pennycook, *James Burnet* at Laswade, *Robert Paton* at Haddintoun, *George Logan* at Dunbar, *Daniel Sinclair* at Longformacus, *James Ramsay* at Kelso, *John Goldie* at Ersletoun, *Francis Lindsay* at Johnston, *Alexander Robertson* at Tinwald, *James Monteith* at Borgue, *George Crawford* at Stephenkirk, *James Laury* at Kirkmichael, *John Wiseman* at Newmonkland, *John Gray* at Glasgow, *Niel Campbel* Principal of the College of Glasgow, *John Logan* at Easter-Kilpatrick, *James Boes* at Campbeltoun, *Archibald Campbell* at Lismore, *George Frier* at Lethendy, *William Stewart* at Perth, *John Warden* at Gargunnock, *Andrew Burgh* at Maderty, *Michael Potter* at Kippen, *Allan Logan* at Culross, *James Thomson* at Burntisland, *George Gillespie* at Strathmiglo, *James Hadow* Principal of the new College of St. Andrews, *Alexander Anderson* at St. Andrews, *Thomas Aitoun* at Alyth, *John Willison* at Dundee, *Gilbert Anderson* at Fordoun, *Samuel Semple* at Libertoun, *Walter Allan* at Collingtoun, *John Thorburn* at Kirknewtoun, *David M'Colm* at Duddingston, *John Guthry* at Ratho, *Alexander Ker* in the Castle-kirk of Edinburgh, and *John Spark* at Currie, Ministers; The most Honourable *John* Marquis of Tweeddale, the Right Honourable

David Earl of Buchan, *James* Earl of Findlater, *Alexander* Earl of Marchmont, *Archibald* Earl of Ilay, *David* Earl of Glaſgow, *William* Lord Roſs, *George* Lord Reay, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of North-Berwick Baronet Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, *Duncan Forbes* Eſq; His Majeſty's Advocate, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiſtoun Lord Juſtice-Clerk, Mr. *James Erskine* of Grange, Sir *William Calderwood* of Polton, Mr. *James Hamilton* of Pancaitland, Sir *Walter Pringle* of Newhall, Mr. *Hugh Dalrymple* of Drummore, and Mr. *Patrick Campbell* of Monzie, ſeven of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, *Archibald M'Aulay* Eſq; Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Mr. *Alexander Abercromby*, of Tillibody Advocate, *Alexander Arbuthnot* of Knox late Baillie in Edinburgh, Mr. *James Baillie* of Hardington Writer to the Signet, Mr. *Charles Binning* of Pilmore Advocate, Colonel *John Blaccader* Deputy Governor of Stirling-Caſtle, Mr. *James Boſwell* of Auchinleck Advocate, Sir *James Campbell* of Ardkinglaſs Baronet, Sir *James Campbell* of Aberuchill Baronet, Sir *Duncan Campbell* of Lochnell; *John Campbell* Eſq; late Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Mr. *Joſeph Cave* Merchant there Treaſurer to the Society in Scotland for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, *Ludovick Colquhoun* of Luſs, Mr. *Robert Craigie* of Glendoig Advocate, *John Cuninghame* of Enterkine, Sir *Robert Dalrymple* of Caſtletoun Advocate, *George Drummond* Eſq; late Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Mr. *George Dundas* of *Dundas* Advocate, Mr. *Robert Dundas* of Arniſtoun Advocate, *Thomas Dundas* of Fingask late Baillie in Edinburgh, Mr. *John Dundas* of Philipſton Advocate, the Honourable Mr. *Charles Erskine* of Edenshead Advocate, the Honourable Colonel *John Erskine* of Carnock, Mr. *Charles Erskine* of Barjarg His Majeſty's Solicitor, Sir *Alexander Gilmore* of Craigmiller Baronet, Mr. *Alexander Gordon* of Ardoch, *James Grant* of Grant, Mr. *Patrick Grant* of Eaſter Elchies Advocate, Mr. *Alexander Hamilton* Younger of Pancaitland, Mr. *Robert Hepburn* of Baads Writer to the Signet, Sir *John Inglis* of Cramond Baronet, Sir *James Livingſton* of Glentirran Baronet, Mr. *Alexander Mitchell* of Mitchell Writer to the Signet, Colonel *Robert Monro* of Foulis, Captain *George Monro* of Culcairn, Mr. *Albert Monro* of Coull, *James Nimmo* Dean of Gild of Edinburgh, *John Osburn* late Baillie there, *Francis Pringle* Doctor of Medicine, *John Riddell* Doctor of Medicine, the Honourable Mr. *John Sinclair* of Brims Advocate, *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, Mr. *Alexander Stevenſon* of Montgreenan Writer to the Signet, Mr. *Robert Stewart* Profeſſor of Philoſophy in the College of Edinburgh, *John Wightman* of Maulſly late Lord Provoſt of Edin-

Edinburgh, and *James Young* of Killicanty Treasurer to Heriot's Hospital, Ruling Elders; to be a Committee of this Assembly, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and for disposing upon the foresaid Royal Bounty, for the Ends above mentioned, and according to His Majesty's Grant: And do hereby renew the Powers contained in the 5th Act of the General Assembly, *anno* One thousand seven hundred and twenty seven, and eight Act of the Assembly in the Year one Thousand seven hundred and twenty eight, intituled, "Commission to some "Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the "*Highlands* and *Islands* of *Scotland*, and managing "the King's Bounty for that End," and the several Acts therein mentioned, which are held as here repeated; and any seven of the foresaid Persons are declared to be a Quorum, whereof four are always to be Ministers. And the foresaid Committee are appointed to have their Meetings in *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursdays* of every Month, at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the Four stated Diets of the Commission of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon, with Power to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places as they shall find needful, and with Power to nominate Ministers, Preachers and Catechists to go in Mission to the foresaid Parts; and such Ministers as they shall appoint to go in Mission, are hereby impowered to act as Members of Presbyteries and Synods, while within their Bounds, and keep Sessions for Discipline; And the General Assembly does hereby continue the forenamed Mr. *John Dundas* of *Philipston* Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and for laying out the same in the Terms of his Majesty's Grant, and according to the Orders and Directions of the foresaid Committee; and the said Committee are enjoined to take special Care, that the foresaid Money be no otherwise disposed of, than for the Purposes contained in the Royal Grant, and not only that those who receive thereof, be duly qualified in all Respects, for what they are to be employed in by the foresaid Committee, but also that they do punctually serve for the same, according to the Rules of the former Committee, contained in their Register, and be ordered and enjoined to observe the same; and the said Committee are required, besides the Register of their Actings, to keep distinct Books of Accompts, how the foresaid Money is bestow'd, and which Books of Accompts are to be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same; and the

ſaid Committee are appointed to keep a Correſpondence with the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, alſo with the foreſaid Society for Chriſtian Knowledge, and with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned in the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, and Places in the North of this Church, and where Popery does abound; and the ſaid Commiſſion are empowered to concur with the ſaid Committee in their Work, when applied unto for that Effect; Alſo the ſaid Committee are ordain'd and impower'd to ſtate the Accompts of their Diſtribution of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, and to lay the ſame before the Lord High Treaſurer, or Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury, or Barons of Exchequer in *Scotland*, according to his Majeſty's Royal Pleaſure, expreſſed in the foreſaid Grant; and alſo to lay the ſame before the next General Aſſembly, with the Regiſter of their Actings and Proceedings. And *laſtly*, This Committee are to continue till another Committee be appointed in their Room, and Members, eſpecially thoſe in *Edinburgh*, are required to give punctual Attendance on all the Diets of this Committee, and when they cannot do it, to ſend their Excuſe; and the Clerk of the ſaid Committee is ordered to keep an exact Account of the Attendance of Members, and lay the ſame before the next General Aſſembly, in ſo far as the Excuſes for Abſence are not ſuſtained by the Committee.

VIII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders for diſcuſſing diverſe Affairs remitted to them.

Edinburgh, May 14th, 1729, poſt merid. Seſſ. 18.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their Conſideration, that there are divers weighty Affairs, which they cannot overtake, ſo as to determine therein themſelves, for Want of Time, do therefore nominate, commiſſionate and appoint, the Rev. Mr. *James Alſton* Miniſter at Dirleton their Moderator, Maſters *George Chalmers* Principal of the

the King's College of Aberdeen, *David Anderſon* Profeſſor of Divinity in the foreſaid College, *John Osburn* Principal of the College of New Aberdeen, *James Chalmers* Profeſſor of Divinity there, *Robert Mitchel* at Dures, *Martin Shank* at Upperbanchory, *Alexander Garden* at Birſe, *Peter Gordon* at Lumphanan, *James Gordon* at Alford, *Walter Sim* at Tillineſtle, *William Bidie* at Cuſhney, *George Moir* at Kintore, *Francis Downie* at Kemnay, *Gilbert Gerard* at Chappelgarioch, *George Johnſton* at Kingedward, *James Bennerman* at Forglen, *James Burnet* at Ellon, *John Webſter* at Cruden, *John Mercer* at Tyrie, *James Leſlie* at Crimond, *John Forbes* at Old Deer, *James Innes* at Banff, *Patrick Darling* at Boyndie, *John Gilchriſt* at Keith, *Alexander Chalmers* at Marnock, *Alexander Frazer* at Inneraven, *Robert Duff* at Aberlour, *Francis Grant* at Duthil, *Lewis Chapman* at Alvie, *George Gordon* at Alves, *John Paterſon* at Diple, *John Squire* at Forreſs, *Robert Dunbar* at Dyke, *Alexander Frazer* at Inverneſs, *Daniel Mackenzie* there, *George Gordon* at Cromarty, *Alexander Reay* at Avoch, *William Stewart* at Kiltearn, *James Frazer* at Alneſs, *Hugh Duff* at Ferne, *Daniel Beton* at Roſekeen, *Thomas Frazer* at Abertarph, *James Gilchriſt* at Kilmalie, *Kenneth Beton* at Kilmuir, *Donald M'Queen* at Cana, *Murdo Moriſon* at Barras, *John M'Leod* at Uig, *Murdo M'Leod* at Glenelg, *James Smith* at Gairloch, *Robert Kirk* at Dornoch, *Walter Roſs* at Creich, *Murdo M'Donald* at Duirneſs, *Andrew Robertſon* at Far, *James Ferm* at Week, *Alexander Gibſon* at Canasbay, *John Pitcairn* at Hoy, *James Weir* at Firth, *Thomas Baikie* at Kirkwall, *Hugh Mowat* at Evie, *Alexander Nisbet* at Shappinſhay, *Thomas Coventrie* at Sanday, *Andrew Fiskine* at Delting, *Walter Huggens* at Dunroſsneſs, *William Wiſhart* Principal of the Univerſity of Edinburgh, *William Hamilton* Profeſſor of Divinity there, *John Schaw* at Leith, *James Craig* at Edinburgh, *James Bannantine* there, *James Smith* at Cramond, *George Lindſay* at North-Leith, *John Brand* at Borrowſtounneſs, *James Anderſon* at Falkirk, *James Naſmith* at Dalmenie, *Robert Dalglieſh* at Linlithgow, *David Blenſhil* at Lamingtoun, *John Thomſon* at Libertoun, *Alexander Walker* at Kirkurd, *Alexander Coupar* at Traquair, *Alexander Johnſton* at Lyne, *William M'George* at Pennycuik, *John Wilſon* at Glencorſs, *James Burnet* at Laſwade, *Archibald Lundie* at Saltoun, *Andrew Dunlop* at Garvoch, *Robert Paton* at Haddinton, *George Logan* at Dunbar, *Thomas Davidſon* at Whitkirk, *Daniel Sinclair* at Longformacus, *Thomas Turnbul* at Greenlaw, *John Pow* at Coldſtream, *James Allan* at Eymouth, *William Wilſon* at Hiltoun, *John Pollock* at Roxburgh, *John Glen* at

Stichel, *Robert Bell* at Crealing, *John Gilchriſt* at Bedrule, *Hugh Kennedy* at Cavers, *John Goldie* at Erſletoun, *Thomas Old* at Legertwood, *George Buyers* at Laſſuden, *David Brown* at Selkirk, *Robert M'Colm* at Ewes, *James M'Garoch* at Eſhdalemuir, *Francis Lindſay* at Johnſton, *Gabriel Gullan* at Wamphray, *Robert Wallace* at Moffat, *Mungo Gibſon* at Sanquhar, *Robert Ferden* at Glencairn, *Alexander Robertſon* at Tinwald, *Edward Bunkle* at Kirkmaho, *John Campbel* at Kirkbean, *John Reid* at Carsferne, *William M'Kay* at Balmaghie, *John Welſh* at Anwoth, *William Campbel* at Kirkinder, *Samuel Brown* at Kirkmabrick, *George Crawford* at Stevenkirk, *John Montgomery* at Leſwalt, *John Steel* at Cumnock, *James Lawrie* at Kirkmichael, *William Coats* at Dalmillington, *John Grant* at Auchinleck, *Andrew Cuming* at Larg, *William Reid* at Stevenſton, *John Cheiſly* at Finwick, *Henry Hunter* at Mearns, *Patrick Maxwell* at Inchinan, *John Miller* at Neilſton, *Robert Hamilton* at Hamilton, *John Scot* at Stonehouſe, *Thomas Steil* at Strevan, *Thomas Linnen* at Liſmahago, *John Orr* at Lanerk, *John Wilſon* at Carſtairs, *Neil Campbel* Principal of the College of Glaſgow, *John Gray* at Glaſgow, *John Scot* there, *Andrew Tait* at Carmunnock, *Robert M'Farlane* at Buchanan, *Archibald Sideſerf* at Dumbarton, *John Logan* at Eaſter-Kilpatrick, *Walter Campbel* at Dunoon, *Alexander M'Kay* at *Jams Boes* at Campbeltoun, *John M'Vicar* at Kildaltoun in Ilay, *Alexander Campbel* at Inverary, *Duncan Campbel* at Kilmartine, *James Campbell* at Kilbranden, *John M'Clean* at Mull *Archibald M'Clean* in Mull, *George Frier* at Lethendie, *Duncan M'Clea* at Dull, *Alexander M'Lagan* at Little-Dunkeld, *Robert Biſſet* at Blair-Athol, *William Stewart* at Perth, *Thomas Schaw* at Scoon, *Thomas Finlayſon* at Dumbarnie, *James Mackay* at Forteviot, *Archibald Moncrief* at Blackford, *William Hally* at Muthill, *Andrew Ure* at Foſſoway, *Michael Potter* at Kippen, *Archibald Napier* at Kilmadock, *Alexander Hamilton* at Stirling, *Archibald Gibſon* at St. Ninians, *Alan Logan* at Culroſs, *John Geddes* there, *Robert Stark* at Toryburn, *Patrick Clow* at Leſly, *James Thomſon* at Bruntiſland, *John Currie* at Kinglaſſie, *George Gilleſpie* at Stramiglo, *James Bruce* at Creich, *Andrew Melvil* at Cults, *James Monro* at Kettle, *Alexander Anderſon* at St. Andrews, *James Chalmers* at Ellie, *William Villant* at Ferrie-partoncraigs, *Joſeph Pitcairn* at Kingsbarns, *James Hadow* Principal of the New College of St. Andrews, *George Clephane* at Newtild, *Laurence Brown* at Lintrethan, *Alexander Finlayſon* at Eſſie, *Hugh Maxwel* at Forfar, *Andrew Arrot* at Dunichan, *James Mar* at Muros, *Patrick Johnſton* at Auchterhouſe, *James Goodſir*

ſir at Monikie, *John Henderſon* at Kirkden, *Robert Trail* at Panbride, *George Wemyſs* at Ferne, *John Johnſton* at Brichen, *James Bell* at Logie, *James Douglas* at Arbuthnot, *Gilbert Anderſon* at Fordoun, and *Anthony Dove* at Fettercairn, Miniſters; The moſt Honourable *John* Marquis of Tweddale, the Right Honourable *David* Earl of Buchan, *Thomas* Earl of Haddinton, *Charles* Earl of Lauderdale, *James* Earl of Findlater, *Alexander* Earl of Marchmont, *James* Earl of Hyndford, *David* Earl of Glaſgow, *Archibald* Earl of Ilay, *William* Lord Roſs, *James* Lord Torphichen, *George* Lord Reay, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of Northberwick Baronet Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, *Duncan Forbes*, Eſq; his Majeſty's Advocate, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiſtoun Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir *John Maxwel* of Nether-Pollock Baronet, Mr. *James Erskine* of Grange, Sir *William Calderwood* of Poltoun Mr. *James Hamilton* of Pancaitland, Sir *Andrew Hume* of Kimmerghame, Sir *Walter Pringle* of Newhall, Sir *Gilbert Elliot* of Minto Baronet, Mr. *Hugh Dalrymple* of Drummore, and Mr. *Patrick Campbel* of Monzie, Ten of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, Sir *John Clerk* of Pennycuik Baronet one of the Barons of his Majeſty's Exchequer, Mr. *Charles Erskine* his Majeſty's Sollicitor, *William Cruikſhank* Provoſt of Aberdeen, *James Muiriſon* Baillie there, Mr. *George Gordon* Profeſſor of the Oriental Languages in the King's College of Aberdeen, *Alexander Farquharſon* of Monaltrie, *John Forbes* of Balfluig, Mr. *Alexander Garden* of Troup Advocate, Mr. *Alexander Frazer* of Strichan Advocate, Mr. *Robert Stewart* Provoſt of Banff, *James Grant* of Grant, Mr. *Patrick Grant* of Elchies Advocate, *Thomas Grant* of Achomany, *Ludovick Dunbar* of Weſtfield, *Hugh Roſe* of Kilravock, *Robert Logan* Baillie in Forreſs, *John Hoſſach* Baillie in Inverneſs, Mr. *Alexander Gordon* of Airdoch, *Albert Monro* of Coul, Captain *David Roſs* of Daan, *Ninian Roſs* in Kindeaſe, Colonel *Robert Monro* of Foulis, Captain *George Monro* of Culcairn, *William M'Leod* of Eboſt, *Donald M'Neil* of Vaterſay, the Honourable Mr. *John Sinclair* of Brims Advocate, Mr. *Robert Honeyman* of Græmſay, *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, *George Balfour* of Trinabee, Captain *James Craigie* in Zetland, Sir *Alexander Gilmore* of Craigmiller Baronet, Sir *John Inglis* of Cramond Baronet, Mr. *Robert Stewart* Profeſſor of Philoſophy in the College of Edinburgh, *Archibald M'Aulay* Eſq; Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, *John Dalglieſh* Deacon of the Hammermen there, *Charles Brown* of Colſtoun, Sir *Robert Dalrymple* of Caſtletoun Advocate, Mr. *Thomas Hamilton* Advocate, Mr. *Robert Dundas* of Arniſtoun Advocate, *James Naſmyth* of Earlshaugh, Mr. *Alexander Menzies*

of Coulterallas Advocate, *George Dundas* of Dundas Advocate, the Honourable Mr. *Charles Erskine* of Edenshead Advocate, Mr *Alexander Hamilton* of Innerwick, Mr. *John Dundas* of Newhalls, Mr. *Joseph Cave* Treasurer to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, Sir *John Stewart* of Allanbank Baronet, Sir *Robert Pringle* of Stitchel Baronet, *Archibald Douglas* of Cavers, *Robert Rutherford* of Fernilees, Mr. *Charles Binning* of Pilmore Advocate, Mr. *Thomas Haliburton* of Newmains Advocate, *James Redpath* of Angelraw, *Robert Scot* of Burnhead, *William Johnston* of Beerholm, *James Currie* Provost of Dumfries, *Alexander Ferguson* of Craigdarroch, *John Crichton* of Carco, Colonel *William Maxwel* of Cardoness, Mr. *James Boswel* of Auchinleck Advocate, *John Cuninghame* of Enterkine, Mr. *William Warner* of Ardier, Mr. *Alexander Stevenson* of Montgreenan, Mr. *John Maxwel* of Blawardhill, Mr. *Alexander Hamilton* of Pancaitland Younger, *John Bannatine* Baillie of Lanark, . *James Hamilton* of Aikenhead, *James Hamilton* of Barns, Sir *James Campbel* of Ardkinglass Baronet, *John Campbel* late Provost of Edinburgh, *George Drummond* late Provost there, *James Nimmo* Merchant Dean of Guild there, *Alexander M'Millan* of Dunmore, *John Campbel* of Orchyard, Sir *Duncan Campbel* of Lochnel, *Hector M'Lean* of Coll, *Alexander Robertson* Elder of Easter-Straloch, *Patrick Yeoman* of Eastmiln, Mr. *Robert Craigie* of Glendoig Advocate, *John Hay* of Lays, *Robert Robertson Junior* Provost of Perth, Sir *James Campbel* of Aberuchil Baronet, Mr. *Alexander Abercrombie* of Tillibody Advocate, Mr. *George Abercrombie* Advocate, Colonel *John Blackader* Deputy Governor of Stirling Castle, the Honourable Colonel *John Erskine* of Carnock, *John Cuninghame* of Balbougie, *Alexander Swinton* of Strathore, *James M'Gill* of Rankeilor, Mr. *John Condie* Baillie of Auchtermuchtie; Sir *Robert Anstruther* of Balcaskie, *Alexander Chalmers* Merchant in Elie, *Patrick Drummond* of Gairdrum, *Thomas Davidson* at Killimuir, *Alexander Ferrier* late Provost of Dundee, *James Fairweather* present Provost there, *James Doeg* late Baillie at Aberbrothwick, *Robert Ramsay* late Baillie at Montrose, *Robert Stewart* late Provost of Aberdeen, and *Alexander Arbuthnot* of Knox, Ruling Elders; to be Commissioners of this Assembly, any Thirty one of them are declared to be a *Quorum*, whereof Twenty one are always to be Ministers, with Power to them to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, which Commissioners are hereby ordained to conveen within the Assembly-House at *Edinburgh*, the first free Day after the Dissolution

lution of this Assembly at Ten of the Clock Forenoon, and afterwards the second *Wednesdays* of *August*, *November* and *March* next, and oftner when and where they shall think convenient, with Power to them to choose their own Moderator. And this General Assembly do hereby renew the Powers granted by the late General Assembly to their Commissioners by their Act, dated the 14th Day of *May* last, entitled, " Commission to some Ministers and " Ruling Elders for discussing divers Affairs refer'd to " them, " and the Instructions thereinmentioned in all Points: And ordains this Commission to proceed according thereunto, and report to the next General Assembly.

IX.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 16, 1729. Sess. ult.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh*, upon the Second *Thursday* of *May* next to come, One thousand seven hundred and thirty Years.

The General Assembly was concluded with Prayer, singing of the cxxxiii. *Psalm throughout, and pronouncing the Blessing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

Jo. Dundas *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

A

TABLE

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ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

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AFTER Sermon by Mr. *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity in the University of *Edinburgh*, Moderator to the Assembly 1727, in Absence of the Reverend Mr. *William Wishart* Moderator of the last Assembly, who was in so bad a State of Health that he could not come abroad, the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this Assembly did conveen, and Mr. *James Alstoun* Minister at *Dirletoun* was chosen Moderator, *May* 1.

The King's Commission to the Earl of *Buchan* to represent his Majesty in this Assembly, is produced. *Ibid*

His Grace his Majesty's Commissioner's Speech, at opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's in Return thereto, recorded. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commissioner having given in to the Assembly his Majesty's Letter of Gift of one thousand Pounds *Sterling*, for this Year, towards the reforming the *Highlands* and *Islands*, the same was read, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to draw an Answer to his Majesty's Gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

A Committee for Overtures appointed. *Ibid.*

A Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to examine the Commissions to Members, censure Absents, name Ministers to preach before his Grace his Majesty's Commissioner, to receive in Lists of Probationers, and Students of Divinity, and their Report as to Commissions ordered to be first brought to the Committee for Overtures; and all Letters of Excuse for Absence are appointed to be laid before this Committee. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to receive in from the Commissioners from the several Presbyteries, their Synods and Presbyteries Instructions to them, and any Overtures

they have to offer from them, and to claſs the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures therefrom to the Aſſembly, and to receive in Accounts of the State of the Church in the *North*, the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, particularly concerning the Growth of Popery and Superſtition, and conſider the ſame, and prepare Overtures for ſuppreſſing and preventing thereof; and likewiſe to receive in from the Viſiters of the Commiſſion-Book the Returns ſent from Presbyteries and Synods to the late Commiſſion's Letters, conſider the ſame, and prepare Overtures therefrom. And they were ordered to conſider, in the firſt Place, the Overtures and Inſtructions from Presbyteries, concerning the Caſe of Mr. *John Simſon* Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſity of *Glaſgow*, and to bring in their Report as to all, firſt to the Committee of Overtures, that they may fully prepare the ſame for the Aſſembly. And all Brethren who had any ſuch Inſtructions or Overtures, were advertiſed to give them in to the Committee at their firſt Meeting, and to attend them at all their ſubſequent Meetings, and confer with them upon the Heads thereof, when they come to conſider the ſame. *Ibid.*

Profeſſor *Simſon* was called, and his Abſence was excuſed for this Sederunt. *Ibid.*

A Diet appointed for Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Diet ſpent in Prayer, *May* 2. *Seſſ.* 2.

Miniſters named to preach before the King's Commiſſioner next Lord's Day, and next *Sabbath* thereafter. *Ibid.*

Some new Commiſſions are produced, and Additions are made to Committees. *Ibid.*

A Letter is ordered to be written, advertiſing Profeſſor *Simſon*, That the Aſſembly was reſolved to go on to his Affair, and requiring him to compear before them upon *Tueſday* next, with Certification. *Ibid.*

Some more Commiſſions are produced, and Additions made to Committees, *May* 3. *Seſſ.* 3.

The Clerk reported that a Letter was written to Profeſſor *Simſon* according to Order. *Ibid.*

An Anſwer to his Majeſty's Letter is unanimouſly approven, and ſubſcribed by the Moderator, and the Lord Commiſſioner undertakes to convey it to the King under his Cover. *Ibid.*

A Committee of Perſons out of each Synod is appointed to reviſe the Regiſter of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, audite the Procurator and Agent's Accompts, conſider the State of the

the Church's publick Money, and prepare Overtures about the ſame, agreeable to Act 7th, Aſſembly 1712, and Act 8th, Aſſembly 1719; and they were ordered to keep cloſe to the Rules laid down in the ſaid Acts, and all Petitions and other Claims for Money were ordered to be laid before them; and they were alſo appointed to prepare any Overtures and References made by the late Commiſſion to the Aſſembly, and were deſired to diſcourſe with the Moderator, or any of the Members of the Commiſſion, about their Remarks upon the Book, that nothing but what is of Moment may be laid before the Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to reviſe the Regiſter of the Committee of the late Aſſembly, for managing his Majeſty's Bounty for Reformation of the *Highlands*, and a Report of the Actings of the ſaid Committee was preſented, with their Regiſter. *Ibid.*

Committees were appointed to reviſe the Regiſters of the Actings of the Synods of *Aberdeen*, *Roſs*, *Glenelg*, *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweedaale*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Argyle*, *Perth* and *Stirling*. But the Synod Books of *Murray*, *Sutherland*, and *Caithneſs*, and *Fife*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland*, not being produced, it is reſolved, that the Reaſons hereof ſhall be enquired into, when the Reports of the Viſiters of the other Books are taken in. *Ibid.*

The Receivers of the Books are made Conveeners of the Committees, and a ſpecial Regard is ordered to be had to the Rules laid down for viſiting of Books, by the Acts of Aſſembly 1713 and 1723. *Ibid.*

The Proceſs and Appeal relating to the planting of *Dundee*, is called, and continued. *Ibid.*

The Appeals of the Presbytery of *Alford*, in the Proceſs for planting the Pariſh of *Towie*, are called, and the Caſe committed. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly concur with his Majeſty's Pleaſure, in ordering a Collection to be made for the Relief of the reformed *French* and *German* Congregation at *Copenhagen*, who ſuffered by the late terrible Fire in that City; and the General Aſſembly do earneſtly recommend their Caſe to all charitably diſpoſed Perſons in this Church, and do exhort them to contribute liberally for their Relief; and they remit to the Commiſſion the ordering of the Method of inbringing and diſpoſing of the Money collected. *Ibid.*

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A Commiſſion from the Presbytery of *Kintyre* is produced, and the Commiſſioners added to Committees, *May* 5. *Seſſ.* 4.

The Tranſportation of Mr. *John Wilkie* to *Dundee* is refuſed, and he is continued at *Uphall*. But the Commiſſion are impowered to receive and determine in any References or Appeals that ſhall be brought before them, in order to the ſpeedy planting of *Dundee*. *Ibid.*

The Petition of Mr. *John Glas* late Miniſter at *Tealing*, who had been depoſed by the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, is moved, and his Caſe committed. *Ibid.*

A Repreſentation of the State of the Presbytery of *Long-Iſland*, being laid before the Aſſembly, they inſtruct and impower their Commiſſion, and Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands*, to do what they can to get the Obſtructions that ly in the Way of the new Erections craved in *Bara*, *South* and *North Uiſts*, and *Harris* removed; and the General Aſſembly remit that Presbytery's Demands of itinerant Preachers and Catechiſts, and Continuance of Mr. *Buchan* at *Hirta*, to the foreſaid Committee for Reformation, and do inſtruct their Commiſſion to uſe all proper Endeavours, to obtain Parochial Judges, and Schools in the Bounds of that Presbytery, and to aſſiſt the Presbytery in their Endeavours to obtain Churches and Manſes to be built, and to gain the Conſent of Heritors, and their Concurrence, for carrying on the Intereſt of Religion, and ſuppreſſing Vice; and they remit that Presbytery's Demands of Money to the Committee for publick Accompts. *Ibid.*

The Proceſs and Appeal about planting the Pariſh of *Old-Machar*, is called and continued. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly did go on to the Conſideration of Profeſſor *Simſon*'s Caſe; and the Act of the late Aſſembly concerning him being read, the Opinions of the ſeveral Presbyteries as to what was proper to be further done in that Affair, claſſed in due Order, were brought in, with an Overture, which the Aſſembly having conſidered, they did declare, That whatever Regard was to be had to the Inſtructions of Presbyteries concerning this Matter, yet no Member of the Aſſembly was tied down to act or vote in the General Aſſembly, according to the Inſtructions he has received from the Presbytery which he repreſents, nor was the Aſſembly obliged to give Judgment in this Affair, according to the Opinion of the Plurality of Presbyteries, unleſs they found the ſame to be juſt; but

but that the General Aſſembly, and every Member of it, was at full Liberty to act therein according as God ſhould give them Light and Direction, after hearing and conſidering all that might be ſaid upon the Cauſe. And the Profeſſor and his Procurator compearing, what the Aſſembly had done concerning him, was intimate to him. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Neil Campbel* Principal of the College of *Glaſgow*, did read a Repreſentation from the ſaid College of Profeſſor *Simſon*'s regular Behaviour, ſince laſt General Aſſembly, ſhewing his Obedience to their Sentence, and his Adherence to the Declaration given in to them. *Ibid.*

And the Aſſembly having heard the foreſaid Repreſentation, in Reſpect of what has been done by the laſt Aſſembly, and by this, at their preceeding and preſent *Sederunts*, did find the Profeſſor duly and legally ſiſted before them, and he, upon Intimation made to him of this Reſolution, did deſire that he might be allowed a reaſonable Time to prepare his Defences, upon ſuch Parts of the Proceſs as they ſhould think fit to take under Conſideration, *May* 6th, *ante merid. Seſſ.* 5th.

The Aſſembly cauſed to be read the Summary of the laſt Aſſembly's Proceedings againſt Mr. *Simſon*, recorded in their Regiſter, *May* 15th *poſt meridiem* 1728, his Articles of Exculpation offered againſt the three Articles of the Libel, alledged to be proven by Writ, recorded *May* 11th *poſt meridiem*, and the Declarations given in by him to the ſaid Aſſembly, recorded *May* 14th, 15th and 16th of the foreſaid Regiſter; and then they reſolved to conſider, Whether the Sentence of the laſt Aſſembly againſt him had inflicted a Cenſure upon him, adequate to what was found relevant and proven in the Proceſs? Or whether they ſhould proceed to a higher Cenſure, or make any other Alteration as to the Cenſure under which he now lies? *May* 7th *ante meridiem*, *Seſſ.* 6.

Mr. *Thomas Reay* Probationer his Complaint againſt the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, for their prohibiting him to preach in their Bounds, becauſe of his accepting the Preſentation of the King's College of *Aberdeen*, to the Benefice of the Pariſh of *Newmachar*, and that without calling or ſiſting him before them, was tabled and committed. *Ibid.*

The Committee appointed to reviſe the Regiſter of the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands*, is impowered to bring in a Nomination of the Members of

a new Committee, for managing this Year's Bounty for that End, with the Draught of a Commiſſion, and Inſtructions to them. *Ibid.*

The Synod Book of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale* is atteſted in the uſual Form. *Ibid.*

The above-mentioned Reſolution of the Aſſembly in Profeſſor's *Simſon*'s Caſe was intimated to him, and he gave in a Paper under his Hand, bearing a Declaration of his Orthodoxy, as to the Points of Doctrine, with Reſpect to which he ſtands accuſed before the Aſſembly; and he is allowed until the Afternoon to prepare for his further Defence. *Ibid.*

Some Members are added to the Committee for reviſing the Regiſter of the Committee for Reformation, for their Aſſiſtance in making the Nomination of a new Committee, and drawing their Commiſſion and Inſtructions. *Eodem die poſt meridiem. Seſſ.* 7.

Profeſſor *Simſon* and his Procurators being heard upon the Grounds of his Defence, and particularly the 1ſt Propoſition of the 2d and 3d Articles of the Libel, the Aſſembly came to this Reſolution, That it was not proper for them in judging, to ſeparate the Conſideration of the ſeveral Articles in the Proceſs; but they reſolved, that they would hear the Profeſſor and his Procurator fully upon the whole Cauſe, before they proceeded to give any Judgment in the Matter; and this Reſolution was intimated to the Profeſſor, and the ſubſequent Diet was aſſigned him to proceed to his Defences. *Ibid.*

The Clerk of the Committee for Bills is ordered to tranſmit to the Clerk of the Committee for publick Accounts, all Petitions and Claims for Money that are in his Hands, to be conſidered by them, and the Ingivers of them are deſired to attend the ſaid Committee. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Charles Charters* late Miniſter at *Arberelior*'s Appeal from the Sentence of the Presbytery of *Aberbrothwick*, depoſing him from the Miniſtry, and Sentence of the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, diſcharging him to cohabit with his Spouſe; and alſo the Synod's Reference of that Affair is referred to the Commiſſion, and they are impowered to determine therein as they ſhall find juſt. *Ibid.*

Profeſſor *Simſon* and his Procurator were heard upon the 2d, 3d and 4th Propoſitions of the 2d and 3d Articles of the firſt Libel; and having ended their Pleading on theſe Heads, they were allowed until the Afternoon's *Sederunt*, to prepare their Defences againſt the 4th Article found

found proven by Witneſſes, and the three Articles found proven by the Profeſſor's own Papers. *May* 8th *ante meridiem*, *Seſſ.* 8.

A Committee is appointed to reviſe the Synod Book of *Angus* and *Mearns*. *Eodem die poſt meridiem*, *Seſſ.* 9.

It is referred to the Commiſſion and Committee for Reformation, *&c.* to do all they can for the Encouragement of Mr. *James Gilchriſt* Miniſter at *Kilmalie* in *Lochaber*, to continue in that Place; and a diſcreet Return is ordered to be written to a Letter from General *Sibourg*, recommending Mr. *Gilchriſt*'s Caſe to the Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Profeſſor *Simſon* and his Procurator were heard upon the foreſaid remaining Articles of the Libel, until they had finiſhed all they had to ſay in the Profeſſor's Defence upon the whole Cauſe; and they declared they had nothing to add, but deſired the Aſſembly's expreſs Judgment, whether it appears to them, that the foreſaid Profeſſor has deliberately vented, taught, and held any erroneous Doctrine, as to the Points on which he has been heard? And if it appears to the Aſſembly that he is ſtill erroneous and heretical, or continues pertinaciouſly to adhere to any of the Errors libelled, and found relevant and proven againſt him? The Aſſembly reſolved to proceed to the Adviſing of the Cauſe Tomorrow in the Forenoon, without hearing any more Reaſonings from the Bar. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly being to go on to the Adviſing of Profeſſor *Simſon*'s Cauſe, his Procurator is deſired to ſhow him, that it was the Aſſembly's Mind he ſhould attend and be at Hand, in caſe they find Occaſion for him. Then their former Reſolutions about the Manner of their Procedure being read, ſeveral Members did diſcourſe upon the Cauſe, and the further Conſideration thereof is delayed until the Afternoon. *May* 9th, *ante meridiem*, *Seſſ.* 10.

It was reſolved and agreed to by the Aſſembly, That nothing in the Act of the laſt Aſſembly does preclude them from pronouncing an higher Cenſure againſt Mr. *Simſon*, or from continuing the Cenſure inflicted by the laſt Aſſembly, or from taking it off, either in whole or in part, according as it ſhall appear juſt and reaſonable to them, after the fulleſt and moſt mature Conſideration of the whole Matter. And then, after long Reaſoning upon the Cauſe, the Aſſembly continued the ſame until another Diet. *Eodem die poſt meridiem*, *Seſſ.* 11.

After much Time ſpent in Reaſoning upon Profeſſor *Simſon*'s Caſe, the Aſſembly appointed a Committee of Ten Miniſters and Eight Ruling Elders, to conſider the ſame, and bring in an Overture upon it, in which the Aſſembly, if poſſible, might all happily agree. *May* 10. *ante meridiem*, *Seſſ.* 12.

The Committee, formerly named, brought in an Overture in Profeſſor *Simſon*'s Caſe, and the ſame was twice read, and reaſoned upon, and the further Conſideration thereof delayed until To-morrow. *May* 12th *ante meridiem*, *Seſſ.* 13.

The Committee for reviſing the Commiſſion Book having made their Report, the Book is atteſted in the ordinary Form, and the Commiſſioners get the Thanks of the Aſſembly for their Care and Diligence in what was committed to them; but the Aſſembly reſerved the Conſideration of a Complaint made againſt their Deciſion in the Caſe of the Pariſh of *Hutton*. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly refer to the Commiſſion to proceed in the following Matters that were under the Conſideration of the late Commiſſion, and not finiſhed by them, *viz.* the Overtures concerning Governors of Youth, Schoolmaſters and Pedagogues, the Maintenance of the Poor, and reſtraining of idle Beggars, the Qualifications of Elders and Deacons, and the Application to the Magiſtrates of *Edinburgh*, for making the Aſſembly-houſe more convenient; and 'tis particularly recommended to them to preſs to have this done before the next Aſſembly. The Aſſembly likewiſe refer to them the Caſe of Mr *Alexander Scrimzeour* at St. *Andrews*, And to provide Mr. *Alexander Paip*, *Æneas M'Aulay* and *John Monro* Students having *Iriſh*, with Burſes; and to endeavour to preſerve new erected Pariſhes in the Presbyteries of *Lorn* and *Mull*, and of *Tong*, and whole Preſbyteries in the Synod of *Glenelg*, and to procure more, and ſee to the ſpeedy and right planting of Pariſhes there, and impower them to determine in all References and Appeals, and to receive Petitions and References concerning the planting and purging of Churches in theſe Bounds, and to do all Diligence to remove the Grievances of Miniſters in theſe Parts: It is alſo recommended to the Commiſſion, to endeavour to preſerve the new Erection of the Pariſh of *Polmont*; and they are impowered to determine in any References or Appeals for planting thereof, and to make the proper Applications for having a Church and Manſe built therein. *Ibid.*

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The Caſe of the Synod of *Orknay* and Presbytery of *Zetland* is referred to the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands*, and if they find Cauſe, they are appointed to ſend them Preachers and Catechiſts. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is appointed to prepare for the next Aſſembly the Overtures about planting vacant Churches, the Method of Preaching, *Saturdays* and *Mondays* Markets, and the Manner of Univerſities granting the Degree of Doctor of Divinity, which were before the late Commiſſion, and not finiſhed by them. *Ibid.*

The Synods of *Lothian* and *Merſe* are ordained at their ſeveral Meetings, to ſee that all the Presbyteries within their Bounds, liable in Payment of the Burſes allowed to the *Lithuanian* Students, make punctual Payment thereof, and at their privy Cenſures to put it as a Queſtion to each of them, Whether they have made full Payment of theſe Burſes? And the Approbation of their Books is forbidden, until they have ſatisfied the Synod in this Matter. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Dutcheſs of *Gordon*, in Return to one ſent to her Grace from the late Commiſſion is read in Aſſembly, wherein ſhe declares her Profeſſion of the true reformed Religion to have been always real, and not ſeeming only, and that her Zeal for advancing of it could not be leſs active now, when it is like to do moſt Service; and ſhe aſſures them, that her utmoſt Care and Endeavours ſhall not be wanting, to have, not only her eldeſt Son, but all her Children, educated with the ſtrongeſt Attachment to Truth and Juſtice: And the Aſſembly appoints a reſpectful Letter to be likewiſe written in their Name to her Grace, and they name three Miniſters and two Ruling Elders to wait upon her, and deliver the ſame to her, and order her Grace's Letter to be recorded. *Ibid.*

A Diet is fixed for conſidering the Pariſh of *Hutton*'s Complaint againſt the Commiſſion. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agent for the Church their Accompts, and Vouchers thereof, are brought in by the Committee for the publick Accounts, and are ordered to ly upon the Table to be peruſed by Members. *Ibid.*

The Members of Aſſembly are appointed to meet by their Synods ſeverally, to name Perſons of their reſpective Synods to be a Committee for nominating the Members of a Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, and preparing the Draught of their Commiſſion and Inſtructions. *Ibid.*

The Caſe of Mr. *Francis Archibald* late Miniſter at *Guthrie*, who was depoſed by the Synod of *Angus* and

Mearns, is remitted to the Committee concerning Mr. *John Glas*. *Ibid.*

A Liſt of Perſons in the ſeveral Synods is brought in, and the ſaid Perſons are appointed as a Committee for drawing the Commiſſion to be given by this Aſſembly, naming the Members thereof, and preparing Inſtructions for them, *May* 13. *ante merid. Seſſ.* 15.

The Overture concerning Profeſſor *Simſon* is approven and turned into an Act, and the ſame is read and intimated to him. *Ibid.*

A Collection is made in the Aſſembly-Houſe for the Relief of Mrs. *Anne Guthrie*, Daughter to the deceaſt *John Guthrie* of *Menius*, a Gentlewoman in Want. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is impowered to cognoſce and determine in the Appeal of the Pariſh of *Hodhame* from the Sentence of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, refuſing the Tranſportation of Mr. *Alexander Orr* from the Pariſh of *Muirkirk* to them. *Ibid.*

The Recommendation of the laſt Aſſembly is renewed for a voluntary Contribution towards the encouraging the erecting of an Infirmary or Hoſpital for ſick Poor, and Presbyteries are deſired to forward the ſame in their ſeveral Pariſhes, and Miniſters are deſired to deal with their People to contribute liberally. *Ibid.*

The Committee appointed to reviſe the Regiſter of the Actings of the Managers of his Majeſty's Bounty for the Year 1728, towards reforming of the *Highlands* and *Iſlands* having made their Report, and laid therewith before the Aſſembly the ſpecial Report of the foreſaid Managers; the ſaid Report of the Viſiters is approven, and in Purſuance thereof, the Aſſembly particularly approves of the Overture of the Managers with Relation to the defraying the Charges of managing the Royal Bounty, and appoints the whole thereof to be paid out of the Church's ordinary Allowance of *L.* 500, in Manner, and upon the Grounds expreſt in the ſaid Overture, and to be ſtated yearly by the Agent for the Church in his Accounts of Incidents, payable out of the Money lodged in his Hands; and the Motion made in the Synod of *Glenelg*, and a Miniſter's preſenting a Memorial to General *Wade* for altering the Method in the Royal Grant for diſtributing of the Fund, is diſapproven, and the Conſideration of the whole other Particulars, in the former Committee's Report, is referred to the Committee of this Aſſembly, with Power to do therein as they find needful, and to follow forth the Deſign thereof, and of the Memorial concerning the Grievances

ces of the Brethren in the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, and conſider maturely the Propoſal for collecting of Stipends and School-maſters Salaries; and the Managers of the ſaid Bounty get the Thanks of the Aſſembly, and their Regiſter is ordered to be atteſted in the uſual Manner, *May* 13. 1729. *poſt merid. Seſſ.* 16.

The Nomination of the Members of the Committee for Reformation and Draught of the Commiſſion is approven. *Ibid.*

The Proceſs for planting the Pariſh of *Old-machar* is called, and continued until the next *Sederunt*. *Ibid.*

The Proceſs for planting *Old-machar* is again moved, and after much Reaſoning thereupon, 'tis reſolved that Parties ſhall be heard upon all they have to ſay in the Cauſe, and that then the Aſſembly will give Judgment upon ſuch Points as ſhall appear to them material, and upon the Cauſe it ſelf, according as they ſhall find juſt, *May* 14. *ante merid. Seſſ.* 17.

The Nomination of the Commmiſſioners of this Aſſembly, and Draught of their Commiſſion is approven, *eodem die poſt merid. Seſſ.* 18.

The Proceſs concerning planting of *Old-machar* is again moved, Parties further heard, and the adviſing of the Cauſe delayed until To-morrow Forenoon. *Ibid.*

The Settlement of Mr. *George Chalmers* at *Old-machar* is reſcinded and made void, and that Pariſh is declared vacant as if no ſuch Settlement had been made, and the Pariſhioners are ordained to proceed to a new Call for reſettling thereof, *May* 15. *ante merid. Seſſ.* 19.

The Proceſs concerning the Pariſh of *Towie* is refer'd to the Commiſſion, with Power to determine therein as they ſhall find juſt, *eod. die poſt merid. Seſſ.* 20.

The Complaint of the Pariſh of *Hutton* againſt the late Commiſſion is again moved, and the Aſſembly reſolved firſt to hear the Remarks of the Viſiters upon the Commiſſion Book before the ſaid Complaint, and the Viſiters being heard, the further Conſideration of this Matter is delayed. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for reviſing Commiſſions is received, and all the Commiſſions are ſuſtained, and Letters are ordered to be written to Synods and Presbyteries, deſiring them to enquire into the Reaſons of the Abſence of Commiſſioners, and cenſure them according to the Acts of Aſſembly, *May* 16. *ante merid. Seſſ. ult.*

The Synod Books of *Aberdeen*, *Roſs*, *Orknay*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, and *Angus* and *Mearns* were ordered to be at-

attested; but the Synod Books of *Murray*, *Glenelg*, *Galloway*, *Argyle*, *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, and *Fife*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland* not being brought up to this Assembly, the Members from these Synods offered their Excuses, which were admitted for this Time; but all these Books were ordered to be brought to be examined by the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Consideration of the Cases of Mr. *John Glas* and *Francis Archibald* is refer'd to the Commission, with Power to determine therein as they shall find just. *Ibid.*

The Appeals of the Parish of *Keltoun* from the Sentences of the Presbytery of *Kircudbright* and Synod of *Galloway*, in the Process for settling Mr. *John Lamont* Preacher as their Minister, is referred to the Commission, with Power to cognosce and determine therein as they shall find just, and to judge in any References or Appeals about planting of that Parish. *Ibid.*

The Appeals of the Town and Parish of *Renfrew* from the Presbytery of *Paisley*, and Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, and that Synod's Reference in the Process for planting the foresaid Parish, are referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

The Appeal of the King's College of *Aberdeen*, and the Heritors, Elders and others of the Parish of *New-Machar*, against the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, for refusing to proceed to the Settlement of Mr. *Thomas Reay* Probationer, to be Minister of that Parish, is referred to the Commission, with Power to determine therein as they shall find just, and to judge in any Reference or Appeal in this Affair that shall come regularly before them from the Synod of *Aberdeen*. *Ibid.*

The Case of Mr. *Thomas Reay* Probationer, as set forth in his Petition, is referred to the Commission to be judged by them as they shall find just. *Ibid.*

The Complaint of the Parish of *Hutton* against the late Commission's Determination in the Process about planting of that Parish, and the whole of that Case, as it came before this Assembly, is left to the next Assembly to be taken in by them or not, as they shall think fit. *Ibid.*

The whole Matters represented in the Petition of the Presbytery of *Dumbartoun*, with Respect to the State of the Parish of *Arroquhar*, are referred to the Commission, with Power to them to do therein as they shall find just. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accounts of Mr. *John Dundas* Advocate Procurator for the Church, for a whole Year of his Majesty's Allowance to the Church, which was at

at the Diſpoſal of the laſt Aſſembly 1728, for defraying the Charges of the Church for that Year, and diſcharging him and his Cautioner of his Intromiſſions, and appointing the Ballance of Sixty three Pounds thirteen Shillings nine Pennies and one third Part of *Sterling* Money due to him to be ſtated as an Article of Diſcharge in his next Accounts. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accounts of *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church his Intromiſſions with the Church's Money, and diſcharging him of the Sums therein ſtated as received, and all Preceedings, and appointing him to be paid of the Ballance of One hundred and ninety one Pounds nine Pennies and five ſixth Parts *Sterling* due to him with Intereſt and Preference, according to the Acts of the General Aſſembly and Commiſſions. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Procurator and Agent for the Church their Diligence in executing the Orders of the Aſſembly relating to their reſpective Offices, and managing the Affairs committed to them, particularly with Relation to the Proceſſes for new Pariſhes, and Settlement of Stipends and Glebs, and building Churches and Manſes in the Bounds of the Presbyteries of *Tong*, *Long-iſland*, *Sky* and *Gairloch*, and Iſland of *Gigha*, Pariſhes of *Kilmorack* and *Arroquhar*, Iſles of *Tirrie* and *Coll*, and concerning a new Church, Gleb and Manſe for *Contane*, and Settlement of Pariſh Schools and Sallaries thereto; and concerning the State of the Church's Fund, and Debts and Claims thereupon as laid before the late General Aſſembly, and giving Orders thereanent; and declaring there lies no Obligation on the Procurator and Agent for the Church to carry on Proceſſes in Dependence, or to commence new ones until they be repaid of what is due to them already on theſe Accounts, and that for hereafter there be no new Proceſſes for Stipends commenced on the publick Charges of the Church, without the Allowance of the General Aſſembly be had thereto, before Commencement thereof; but that the Procurator and Agent for the Church continue to aſſiſt Presbyteries in Settlement of Schools in Pariſhes, and Salaries thereto. Recommendation to the Synod of *Argyle* in Favour of Mr. *Daniel Moriſon*, for Payment of the Expences he was at in Settlement of the Stipend of *Kilbranden*. The Caſes of the Miniſters of *Tillineſtle*, *Dunſcore*, *Balmerino*, *Nairn*, *Eſſle* and *Colace*, are recommended to their reſpective Presbyteries and Synods for Help to carry on the Proceſſes for their Stipends; and the Procurator and Agent

for the Church are appointed in their Stations to manage theſe Proceſſes *gratis*, Money being put in the Agent's Hands for defraying the other Charges thereof. And the Conſideration of the Petitions and Claims for ſome of the publick Money not already ſtated are delayed. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Management and propoſed Settlement of the Fund, ariſing from the Collections for the New Churches in *Diurneſs*, upon the Eſtate of *Sandſide*, and appointing a Committee to adviſe the Procurator and Agent for the Church, in the finiſhing thereof, with Power to call in the Deficiencies of theſe Collections, and clear the Accounts about them, impowering the Commiſſion to determine in any Proceſſes that come before them by References or Appeals, for planting Pariſhes in the Presbytery of *Tong*, ordering a Letter of Thanks to be written to the Lord *Reay* for his Care in advancing Religion in his Country, and appointing a State of this Affair to be laid before the Commiſſion, and impowering them to do therein as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, ordering the Minutes and whole Tranſactions about it to be recorded together in a Book by themſelves, and the Securities to be kept amongſt the other Papers belonging to the Church, and Report to be made to the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The State of the Collections made for a Church to the Presbyterian Congregation in *New York* in *America*, is ſet down. A Letter of Thanks is ordered to be written to Doctor *Nicol* for his Care about the Intereſt of the foreſaid Congregation, and a Method is propoſed for ſecuring the foreſaid Church to the Presbyterians there to Poſterity, and Recommendations to Deficients in contributing to the foreſaid Purpoſe, are renewed, and Letters ordered to be written to the foreſaid Congregation, and Mr. *Anderſon* their late Miniſter, to the Presbytery of *New York*, and Synod of *Philadelphia*, in order to compoſe all Differences that have ariſen amongſt them about this Church, and deſiring them to uſe their Endeavours to preſerve that Church to the Presbyterians in that Place, and a Record of all the Tranſactions in this Affair is ordered to be kept. *Ibid.*

The State of the Collections for the Relief of the Suffering Proteſtant *French* Refugees in *Hildburghauſen*, the New Churches at *Cairſtoun* and the *Enzie*, Bridges of *Naver* and *Dee*, and Harbours of *Aberbrothwick*, *Anſtruther* and *Bamff*, is ſet forth, Recommendations to Deficients in them are renewed; and the Commiſſion is impowered to do in the Matter of *Cairſtoun*, as they ſhall

ſhall find Cauſe, and they are appointed to report to the next Aſſembly. 'Tis agreed, that for the future, no Recommendations for publick Collections for building Bridges or Harbours ſhall be granted by Aſſemblies or Commiſſions, and that Aſſemblies ſhall deliberate well before they grant Recommendations for Contributions to build Churches in foreign Parts, when there is ſo much need of them at Home. Letters are ordered to be again written to Synods and Presbyteries to enquire into the State of their Libraries, and Presbyteries are appointed to give a full Report thereanent to their reſpective Synods, who are ordained, at their firſt Meeting, to call Miniſters and Presbyteries in their Bounds to an Account in that Matter, and both Synods and Presbyteries are ordered to report their Diligence herein to the Commiſſion in *November*, with Certification that they will be complained of to the next Aſſembly. The Commiſſion is ordered to prepare an Account of the State of theſe *Libraries* for the Aſſembly, bearing the Number ſent to each Synod, Presbytery and Pariſh; and 'tis recommended again to Presbyteries in the *Lowlands*, who have received Libraries, and have not increaſed them, to return them to the Agent for the Church, in order to be ſent to ſome of the new Presbyteries; and 'tis alſo recommended again toPresbyteries to procure Books to theſe remote Places, and the Commiſſion is impowered to do what they ſee Cauſe with reſpect to Libraries, and to do what they can for finding out, and recovering the publick Regiſters of this Church, and having them reſtored to theſe who ſhould have the Cuſtody of them. *Ibid.*

Former Recommendations in favour of the deſigned New Church at *Noriſtoun* are renewed, and Deficients in contributing thereto in the Synods of *Lothian*, *Glaſgow*, *Fife*, *Perth*, *Argyle* and *Galloway*, are deſired yet to contribute; and this Collection is further recommended to the Synods of *Angus* and *Merſe*. *Ibid.*

Former Recommendations to all the Pariſhes in the Synods of *Fife*, *Perth*, *Angus* and *Aberdeen*, to contribute for building the Bridge over the *Weſt* Water, which divides the Pariſhes of *Lathnot* and *Naver*, are renewed. And it is further recommended to all the Pariſhes within the Synods of *Murray* and *Roſs* to join in the ſaid Contribution. *Ibid.*

All the Miniſters within this Church are appointed, when the Royal Brief ordering a Collection for Building the Harbour of St. *Andrews* is intimated in the Congregations, to exhort their People to contribute liberally for

that End; and 'tis remitted to the Commiſſion to name a Day for that Contribution. *Ibid.*

The Caſe of the Town of *Garmouth*, as ſet forth in the Synod of *Murray*'s Petition, and Repreſentation of it given in therewith, is referred to the Commiſſion, with Power to do in that Matter, as they judge proper. *Ibid.*

The Caſe of the Pariſh of *Contane*, and Mr. *John Moriſon* in *Urray*, as repreſented in the Petition of the Presbyteries of *Chanoury*, *Tayn* and *Dingwal*, is referred to the Conſideration of the Commiſſion, with Power to them to do in the Matters ſet forth in the ſaid Petition, what they can for anſwering the Deſign thereof. *Ibid.*

Duncan M'Doual Soldier his Petition for a Collection is laid aſide, and he is left to the Synod and Presbytery of the Bounds where he reſides, that they may do for him what they find proper. *Ibid.*

The Circumſtances of the Pariſh of *Egg*, *&c.* and of Mr. *Donald M'Queen* their Miniſter, as ſet forth in the Petition of the Presbytery of *Skie*, is referred to the Conſideration of the Commiſſion, with Power to them to do what they judge proper in that Matter. *Ibid.*

All Affairs that were depending before the late Commiſſion, and not diſcuſt by them, are referred to the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, with the ſame Powers, with reſpect to them, that the ſaid late Commiſſion had. *Ibid.*

Liſts of Probationers and Students of Divinity were brought in, and the Liſt of Probationers read, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to reviſe the Minutes of this Aſſembly, and give Orders for Printing ſuch of the Acts thereof as are to be ſtanding Rules, and are of Publick Uſe. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this Day's *Sederunt* were read, the Minutes of preceeding *Sederunts* having been formerly read at the reſpective Diets, ſubſequent to each *Sederunt*. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Aſſembly, and to His Majeſty's Commiſſioner. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commiſſioner made a Speech in Return, and then the Aſſembly was concluded. *Ibid.*

FINIS.